

THE VIRGINIUS MASSACRE

Continued from First Page

Gen. Francis Darr, owner of the *Florida* at the time of her capture, two years ago, says that while there were no indications of a hostile intent on the part of the Virginians when captured, his own steamer was loaded down with arms when seized, yet Judge Blatchford dismissed the *Florida* on the ground that she had not violated the act of 1819; and that even any act which the *Virginias* may possibly have intended would not have been an act of hostility according to the same ruling; that even under the severest construction of the law by the Spanish authorities, the lives of all the victims were sacred. He believes there are general instructions on the part of the Spanish Government for the seizure of any vessel bearing the American flag upon the slightest pretext. He thinks that Spain has no respect for the rights of the United States, and that there is no justice for Cuba until there is a change in men, at least, of the Department at Washington; nor does he believe that the Secretary of State will ever ask for an apology. He states that Samuel R. Scott, President of the Cuban Anti-Slavery Society in this city, has secured 8,000 signatures to a petition to the General Government to grant the Cubans belligerent rights, to the end that slavery in the island may stand some chance of being abolished during the present conflict.

Gen. Quesada, whose son is reported to be among those executed, said to a TURNER reporter that he was not surprised at the news, as he had expected it to come to Spanish ears. He said that he would not be inclined to sympathize with the Cubans, but he would not believe that their cause was subjected only to stringent tests by Cuban patriots in their purpose; that resistance to Spanish rule in the island will continue so long as there is a Cuban left; that every man is ready to die for the cause, if necessary. Their line of policy, he says, will be to work coolly and await patiently the day when the United States will be forced to intervene. When asked if deliverance from Spanish oppression was not the only aim of the revolution, he replied that the General Government was not to be considered as an obstacle to the revolution on the subject of interference, he replied that no such petition was necessary; that the General Government knew its duty in the premises; but that if it had a line of policy of its own, and would probably pursue it.

The only topic of conversation at the leading hotels last evening, as well as other public resorts, was this last example of Spanish race. Considerable excitement was manifested, and no doubt many of the very opinions were expressed, which have been the subject of our previous editorial. It was a most cruel and a very obvious case of summary justice hardly called for under the circumstances. Many had casual acquaintances among either the crew or passengers, and these freely expressed the opinion that it was clearly the duty of the United States to interfere, and avenge the death of American citizens. The ability of Spain to cope with any foreign power was canvassed by others, and the verdict granted that it would prove her almost annihilation, and victory to the struggling Cubans. The opinion was very generally expressed that, despite the request of the United States authorities, the United States should not interfere. Further executions, before this time all those on board the ill-fated steamer had suffered death, and much anxiety was manifested to gain a complete list of the unfortunate. The report that several men-of-war had been placed in readiness for immediate and active service was looked upon as evidence that the United States was about to enforce respect from the Spanish authorities, and not a few remarked that they would be glad to be among those to take part in such a humane project.

Several of the State newspapers have begun to discuss the merits of candidates for the speakership of the next Assembly. The *Albany Express* has heard the names of Gen. Husted, Gen. Rathbeller, F. A. Alberger, and L. Bradford Prince mentioned, and the *Tray Times* finds these all good men save one (unnamed), whose name, it thinks, should not be mentioned for the position outside of a certain room in Congress Hall, and should be dropped at once. The Democrats, it is thought, will elect one of the two of Smith or Smith Wood.

An examination of the returns from the county elections in Illinois reveals the surprising havoc which the farmers' movement has made in the old party ranks. The farmers have carried 51 of the 102 counties, and of these 39 were formerly Republican and 12 Democratic. The Democrats have held their own in 35 counties, and gained two from the Republicans. The Republicans have preserved their majorities in 13 counties, and gained one from the Democrats. Thirteen counties have been carried by independent candidates, and there was six more to be heard from.

which have hastened to condemn THE THIRUNE for "overdrawing" the political situation and undersupporting the country in the eyes of foreign nations, are commended to an article in the current number of *Harper's Weekly*, a journal which rather feebly endeavors to make up in the tone of its letter-press for the personal funkism to the President in its illustrations. The article begins with the statement: "This is an era of corruption. On all sides public and private dishonesty is so common that the question asked of a man is getting to be, 'Will he steal?'"

There is scarcely a Republican journal of prominence in the country which has not, since the elections, called the Administration to account in words which only a year ago were pronounced traitorous and calumnious. (They seem to vie with each other in denouncing the salary swindle and other extravaganzas of the last Congress, and unite in the warning that vigorous measures of reform are the only way to preserve the Republic.) This kind of thing is not new. See the *Indianapolis Advertiser*, The *St. Louis Democrat*, The *Boston Advertiser*, The *Boston Journal*, The *Worcester*

scattering votes, and free and independent suffrage. According to *The Minneapolis Tribune*, there never was such reckless scorching in the history of Minnesota politics as at the late election. For several hours after the close of the polls, no estimate could be made of the result in any county by comparison with other elections. There seems to be a disposition everywhere to assert the sacred right of bolting. Witness the awful demoralization of the voters. They are not sure of their own votes. They have only to wait patiently and we shall see what we shall see. Office-holders believe in the eternity of the party which has chosen and feeds them; but those who are not chosen too many parties wish to hug and such delusion.

the Republicans of that State several useful lessons, and not the least of these was the conviction that a man can do a worse thing than protest against the abuses of his party. The election on Tuesday furnishes several instances of the faithfulness with which this lesson has been conned. At least three men who were ardent and enthusiastic supporters of Mr. Greeley last year have been sent to the Legislature with overwhelming majorities. These are Gen. Banks, Judge Aiken of Greenfield, and Smith R. Phillips of Springfield. In the two former cases a regular Republican candidate was run, and in the latter there was not a single vote in opposition. No doubt Massachusetts Republicans have learned that a man's honesty is of higher value than his partisanship.

German Republicans of Illinois, thus announces its departure from the Republican party: "The cause from which the Republican party rose has long ceased to exist. The old issues are dead, and new questions have been introduced. Issues ancient and revolving questions finally disposed of, the Democratic party has kept alive the Republican, compelling those German Republicans who were so from sincere conviction to continue a repulsive alliance with the professional English-speaking Republican Party." It goes on to say that the nomination made by Greeley's nomination, for a reaction which would undo the rights secured by the war, has disappointed the hopes of the German-American people of every other object but to assist unscrupulous, combative English-speaking secondhands to profitable effect. The German-Americans are told that they have nothing to do with this sort of American "Republicans," and protest their anger against "the designation of a Republic."

question of election of Supreme Judges in California. At the recent election the Anti-Monopoly party elected their candidate for life a vacancy. The Democrats elected their candidate for a term of two years to the same position. The Republicans came last with two candidates, assuming that there were two vacancies to be filled. To the consternation of the Anti-Monopolists the *San Francisco Alta California* now announces authoritatively that there is no vacancy. The Democrats have one and the Republicans have none, but that there are two other vacancies, and in these the two Republican candidates, are to be elected. The result is that the effect being given by these railroad judges whose tenure of office is unquestioned. Such a decision, if it is not reversed, will be thoroughly lawful, it will be a dangerous experiment. California people are pretty sure to be disappointed now, and it will not be long before they will be disappointed.

③ The captain, crew, and 12 other prisoners taken

The critic of *The Pall Mall Gazette* writing somewhat bitingly of Mr. Joaquin Miller's new book about the Modocs, finds it hard to believe that an old Indian accomplished this simile: "The whites were as the ocean, strong and aggressive; while the red men were as the sand, silent, helpless, tossed about, run upon, and swallowed up." It certainly is rather grandiloquent, but not much more so than the talk of Santaata and Big Tree with their people after their imprisonment. Taking up a small handful of sand, Santaata remarked: "You see that; that's all Indians! All the sand over these hills is the whites. They are too many for us. It is no use our fighting them. We had better be at peace." The whitemen can whip us if they want to!" After the utterance of this bit of philosophy he sat down, his audience grunted, and Big Tree arose, with another rhetorical figure: "You see this tree; the leaves on it are the Indians. The leaves in that large forest are the white people. They are too many for us. If the whites were to fire off their guns once, all the Indians are dead!" The assembled braves likewise grunted at this, and one of them cleverly insinuated that if the whites had been able so to dispose of them they would have done it long ago instead of making treaties—and further, that Santaata and Big Tree had perhaps acquired among the whites tongues not as straight as they might be. This gentleman, like an excellent aboriginal business man and statesman also observed that there was nothing like fighting, because if they never fought they never got anything for keeping the peace. We commend this specimen of western eloquence to the attention of Mr. Miller's sparkling critics.

The literature of wills is full of curious expressions of personal prejudice, often of the pettiest sort. There would seem to be more of tyranny than of affection in the will proved in 1892 of the Englishman who, in case his son Edward should wear mustaches, ordered that an estate devised to him should be given to his son William; and who likewise provided that if William should not be able to resist the mustache, his share should be given to Edward. This odd old British dislike to a French fashion is also to be noted in an appraiser and upholsterer who by his will gave the men he employed \$50 each, "but to those who persist in wearing the mustache, \$35 only." Another peculiar will, dated 1894, is that of the man who gave his wife \$150 a year on condition that she should wear a widow's cap, failing which pious duty she was to get only \$100. Another gentleman imperatively willed that his wife should not, after his decease, "offend artistic taste or blazon the sacred feelings of her sweet and gentle nature by the exhibition of a widow's cap." In 1908 was proved the testament of Sir James South, the astronomer, giving a pocket chronometer each to the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Rosse, and Mr. A. J. Stephens, "in the fullest confidence" he observes, "that they would respectively use and wear them in the same manner as I am in the habit of wearing my chronometer—namely, in my pantaloons pocket." Why this astronomer should have decried the usual waistcoat pocket as a resting-place for a chronometer is yet a mystery.

cloud-land, and takes no note of tumbling gods or feeble people. Called down to "make a speech" at a public dinner, he thrums the same old tune and flings abroad the same old rotund periods. It would be discourteous to laugh, but how ridiculous it all is to be sure. Does he not know that that's all over; that the Great Silent Man has spoken, and spoken too upon the subject of Finance, and that the spell is broken; that the stage machinery of 1873 has all fallen down; that the carpenters have struck and the Christian statesmen gone howling off with their false calves leaping sawdust, and their fine distention of goodness leaning flabby round them? Some good friend of the orator should tell him about all this. The officers of the Mercantile Library Association are not children or fools that Orator Puff should say to them with his gift of utter-

A publisher, writing on international copyright to *The London Echo*, recommends that the owners of English copyright books should sell them cheaply in the American market, thus in a measure preventing "the piracy" which makes the British author and publisher to rage like unto the caged lion. *The Echo* thinks that an arrangement by an author by which his book should appear simultaneously in England, America, and the Colonies would be only fair, and contends that "piracy" is not a case of "stealing all round, the thieves 'not being on equal terms'." It complains that while only a few American humorists, poets, and historians are much read in England that country grants to the American author privileges which his country denies to the English author. This complaint is not so far out of the way, for while only a few hours' stay on British soil is sufficient to secure copyright, in this country it takes permanent residence. No positive action on the part of our Government seems near, but it is possible that this uncomfortable question will at some active instant get that gratification.